## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An air distribution system for combined refrigerators ~~of the type which comprises~~ comprising:

a freezing compartment ~~(10)~~ and a refrigerating compartment ~~(20)~~;

an air-cooling compartment ~~(40)~~ lodging at least one evaporator ~~(45)~~;

a distributing duct ~~(60)~~ having a rear window ~~(62)~~ opened to the air-cooling compartment ~~(40)~~, at least one front opening ~~(65)~~ communicating with the freezing compartment ~~(10)~~, and one end opening ~~(64)~~ maintained in communication with the refrigerating compartment ~~(20)~~; and

at least one fan ~~(46, 47)~~ producing a forced airflow from the air-cooling compartment ~~(40)~~ to the freezing compartment ~~(10)~~ and to the refrigerating compartment ~~(20)~~,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distributing duct ~~(60)~~ carries a conduct ~~(63)~~, having a first end coupled to the end opening ~~(64)~~ of the distributing duct ~~(60)~~, and a second end selectively placed in fluid communication with one of the parts defined by the distributing duct ~~(60)~~ and by the air-cooling compartment ~~(40)~~, said conduct ~~(63)~~ being internal to the distributing duct ~~(60)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct ~~(63)~~ is incorporated to the distributing duct ~~(60)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distributing duct ~~(60)~~ comprises a rear basic portion ~~(60a)~~ in the form of a vertically disposed tray, having a rear wall provided with a rear window ~~(62)~~ and defining at least part of a front wall of the air-cooling department ~~(40)~~, and a front cover portion ~~(60b)~~ to be seated and affixed against the rear basic portion ~~(60a)~~ and being provided with at least one front opening ~~(65)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the front cover portion ~~(60b)~~ defines a wall portion of the conduct ~~(63)~~ when assembled.

5. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct ~~(63)~~ is maintained in selective fluid communication with one of the parts defined by the distributing duct ~~(60)~~ and by the air-cooling compartment ~~(40)~~ by means of respective front opening ~~(66)~~ and rear opening ~~(67)~~ produced by the rupture of corresponding wall portions of the conduct ~~(63)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct ~~(63)~~ conducts a forced airflow supplied, through the inlet opening ~~(66)~~, coming from the distributing duct ~~(60)~~, to whose rear window ~~(62)~~ is operatively associated a fan ~~(46)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct ~~(63)~~ conducts a forced airflow, which is produced by a fan ~~(47)~~ that is operatively associated to the end opening ~~(64)~~ and to the refrigerating compartment ~~(20)~~, and which is supplied by the air-cooling compartment ~~(40)~~ to the conduct ~~(63)~~, through the rear opening ~~(67)~~.